

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINSHA 02255 081827Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 /060 W

-----019888 081831Z /47

O 081804Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8572

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 2255

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, CG, US, PINR

SUBJECT: PLOT TRIAL: US DIPLOMAT CITED IN COURT TESTIMONY

REF: KINSHASA 2213

1. TRIAL OF ACCUSED PLOTTERS BEGAN IN KINSHASA TODAY, MARCH 8. OBSERVERS INCLUDED LOCAL AND FOREIGN PRESS REPS. IN RESPONSE TO GOZ INVITATION, EMBASSY PRESS OFFICER IS ALSO ATTENDING COURT SESSION AND DURING BRIEF LUNCH BREAK HAS REPORTED FOLLOWING:

2. MAJOR KALUME HAMBA GAVE DEPOSITION LASTING ABOUT ONE HOUR AND A HALF AND THEN ANSWERED QUESTIONS FOR ABOUT EQUAL PERIOD OF TIME. INCLUDED IN HIS TESTIMONY WAS STATEMENT THAT DURING A TRIP TO EUROPE, AND IN CONNECTION WITH PLOT, HE MET WITH ELDERLY BELGIAN COUPLE WHERE AN AMERICAN DIPLOMAT WAS PRESENT. KALUME DID NOT IDENTIFY FURTHER EITHER BELGIANS OR AMERICAN DIPLOMAT.

3. EMBASSY PRESS OFFICER IS NOW ATTENDING AFTERNOON SESSION AND WE WILL GET A FULL READ-OUT AT END OF DAY. HOWEVER, SINCE MORNING'S REFERENCE TO INVOLVEMENT OF AMERICAN DIPLOMAT MAY BE REPORTED BY WIRE SERVICES, DEPARTMENT SHOULD ANTICIPATE RECEIVING PRESS QUERIES. IF ASKED, RECOMMEND DEPARTMENT ISSUE CATEGORICAL DENIAL THAT US GOVERNMENT OR ANY US GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 KINSHA 02255 081827Z

INVOLVED IN ANY WAY IN ANY PLOT OR OTHER ACTIVITY DIRECTED AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAIRE OR OFFICIALS OF THAT GOVERNMENT; AND THAT, SPECIFICALLY, ANY AMERICAN DIPLOMAT PARTICIPATED IN ANY MEETING SUCH AS ONE DESCRIBED BY MAJOR KALUME. ALSO, IF ASKED, WE COULD STATE THAT ASSURANCES ALONG THE ABOVE LINES HAVE ALREADY BEEN CONVEYED BY THE US GOVERNMENT AT A HIGH LEVEL TO THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAIRE.

4. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT IT BE AUTHORIZED TO REPLY ALONG THE
ABOVE LINES TO ANY PRESS QUERIES WE MAY RECEIVE HERE. WE WILL IN
MEANTIME REPORT ANY FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS WHICH COULD ALTER US
POSTURE AS TRIAL PROGRESSES.

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Message Attributes

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